

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 168854
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE: DANDERSON/EUR/RPM:JHHAWES:KS
APPROVED BY EUR GVEST
EUR:WSTOESSEL (DRAFT)
OSD/ISA:LMICHAEL
NSC:GTREVERTON (DRAFT)
PM:RBARTHOLOMEW
ACDA/ISP:MHUMPHREYS
S/P:PKAPLAN
S/S-O: AWOTTO

-----122811 200237Z /66

O 200143Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 168854

EXDIS - HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS; USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATOPFOR, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN PROPOSAL ON MBFR

1. DURING CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S MEETING WITH THE
PRESIDENT JULY 14, FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLECH
OUTLINED NEW FRG MBFR POSITION FOR CONSIDERATION IN NATO
AND JOINT PRESENTATION IN VIENNA. HE PREFACED DETAILED
PRESENTATION WITH GENERAL STATEMENT THAT FRG BELIEVED THESE
SUGGESTIONS PROBABLY SHOULD BE TABLED IN VIENNA ONLY AFTER
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A BREAKTHROUGH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN SALT II; THEY ALSO
COULD BE INTRODUCED AFTER AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED IN
VIENNA ON A DATA BASE, OR, POSSIBLY, COULD BE HINTED AT IN
AN EFFORT TO MOVE THE DATA DISCUSSIONS FORWARD. IN
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING BY THE PRESIDENT, BLECH SAID THE
VIEW ON TIMING AS RELATED TO A SALT BREAKTHROUGH WAS
INTENDED TO REFLECT THE FRG ESTIMATE OF CURRENT NATO

THINKING; THIS COULD CHANGE IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE.

2. FRG PROPOSAL CONTAINED FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

(A) THE PRINCIPLE OF PARITY SHOULD BE RETAINED AND NUMERICALLY DEFINED. FOR INSTANCE, AS A HYPOTHETICAL FIGURE, EACH SIDE MIGHT AGREE ON THE TOTAL FORCE LEVEL OF 700,000.

THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE A DEFINITION OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL EXCEEDING THAT LEVEL. THE EXCESS PERSONNEL WOULD THEN BE REDUCED BY THE TWO SIDES ACCORDING TO EQUAL PERCENTILES TO BE NEGOTIATED. THE FRG WOULD WANT TO RETAIN THE EMPHASIS ON US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I. IN THIS WAY, FOR EXAMPLE, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE WARSAW PACT TO REDUCE THE EXCESS PERSONNEL AT TWICE THE LEVEL OF THE WESTERN SIDE WITHOUT HAVING TO SO STATE IN NUMBERS. IT WAS A WAY OF ACHIEVING ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS THROUGH SYMMETRICAL PERCENTAGE CUTS.

(B) THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVITY IS TO BE UPHELD.

(C) A DEFINITION OF THE TIME PERIOD BETWEEN PHASES NEEDS TO BE AGREED ON.

(D) THE WESTERN DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ONE SOVIET TANK ARMY WOULD BE TRANSFORMED INTO AN OPTION INVOLVING
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REDUCTION OF A GIVEN AMOUNT OF TANKS DISTRIBUTED OVER FIVE DIVISIONS OR SO.

(E) CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE MODALITIES OF THE US TROOP REDUCTION PROPOSAL COULD BE CONSIDERED; FOR INSTANCE, INSTEAD OF ONLY THINNING OUT, THE UNITED STATES MIGHT ALSO CONTEMPLATE SOME WITHDRAWAL BY UNITS.

(F) STABILIZING MEASURES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, TO ENHANCE WARNING TIME. THESE WOULD BE SIMILAR TO CBMS IN CSCE, BUT WOULD BE BINDING.

3. BLECH ALSO MENTIONED THAT IF PROGRESS ON THIS BASIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE, OR APPEARED TO BE OVERLY DELAYED, AN "INTERIM PROTOCOL" MIGHT BE SUGGESTED WHICH COULD GIVE A SENSE OF MOVEMENT AND WHICH COULD INCORPORATE SUCH PRINCIPLES AS PARITY, COLLECTIVITY, AND AN INTENT TO MOVE TOWARD PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS OF THE OVERHANG. HE STRESSED THE NEED TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION OF AGREEMENT TO A FREEZE ON FORCE LEVELS.

4. IF POSTS RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM OTHER ALLIES CON-

CERNING US-FRG CONVERSATIONS ON MBFR, YOU MAY INDICATE THAT:

--CONVERSATIONS TOOK PLACE IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL REVIEW OF SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL MATTERS;

--CERTAIN IDEAS FOR ADVANCING ALLIED OBJECTIVES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE DISCUSSED;

--OBVIOUSLY ANY FORMAL PROPOSALS WOULD BE DEVELOPED IN CONCERT WITH ALL THE ALLIES IN NATO.

5. FOR BONN: BLECH INDICATED THAT FRG WOULD BE GIVING EMBASSY BONN A PAPER AFTER CHANCELLOR'S PARTY RETURNED, SECRET

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AND THAT FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER RUTH WILL BE COMING TO WASHINGTON IN LATE AUGUST TO DISCUSS GERMAN PROPOSAL. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SOUND OUT RUTH'S PLANS ON TIMING FOR SUCH A VISIT.

6. FOR LONDON: EMBASSY MAY INDICATE TO THE BRITISH THAT FRG PROPOSAL IS SIMILAR IN SOME RESPECTS TO GERMAN THREE-PHASE EQUAL PERCENTAGES APPROACH PAPER GIVEN TO US AND UK IN 1976. WE WILL, OF COURSE, WANT TO CONSULT WITH UK ON THIS, BUT HAVE NOT YET GIVEN THOUGHT TO TIMING OR MODALITIES.

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PAGE 01 STATE 168854
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JHHAWES:KS

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:WSHINN, JR.

S/S-O:RPERITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 168854

EXDIS MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 168854 ACTION ALL NATO CAPITALS VIENNA
INFO MOSCOW GENEVA DATED JUL 20:

QTE: S E C R E T STATE 168854

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE168854
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DANDERSON/EUR/RPM:JHHAWES:KS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770257-0177
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770737/aaaabgay.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1802365
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GERMAN PROPOSAL ON MBFR
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GE, NATO
To: NATO POSTS MBFR VIENNA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91160467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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